



*a*  
**Springtime**  
*with* **Ninjas**★

1

Narumi Hasegaki



# *a* Springtime with Ninjas

1



Presented by  
**NARUMI HASEGAKI**

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Narumi Hasegaki presents

Springtime  
in Ninja-land





**WHAT  
WAS  
THAT?**

**A  
SIGN  
OF OUR  
LOVE.**

**LET'S  
GET  
MARRIED  
WHEN WE  
GROW  
UP.**

**THAT  
WAS  
THE  
FIRST  
TIME  
...**

**I MADE  
A  
PROMISE  
WITH  
ANYONE.**



# X NINJA LOVE



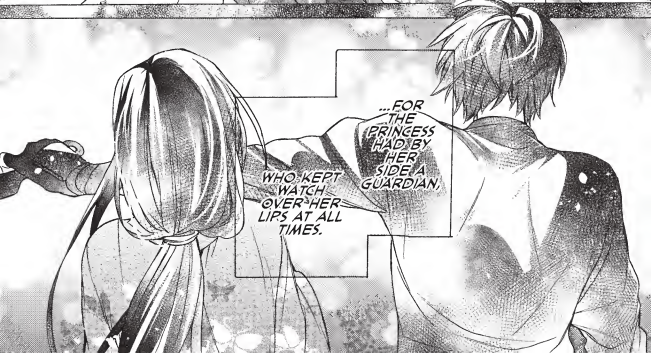


ONCE UPON A  
TIME, THERE  
WAS A LORD  
WHO WANTED  
TO HAVE HIS  
DAUGHTER  
MARRY A  
POWERFUL  
MAN. FEELING  
PLAYFUL, HE  
DECLARED,

"WHOSOEVER  
CAN STEAL  
A KISS  
FROM THE  
PRINCESS  
SHALL  
HAVE HER  
HAND IN  
MARRIAGE."

HOWEVER,  
THE TASK  
WAS NOT  
AS EASY  
AS THEY  
EXPECTED...

SEEKING  
TO STEAL A  
KISS, MEN  
FROM ALL  
OVER THE  
LAND MADE  
THEIR WAY  
TOWARD  
THE  
PRINCESS.



...FOR  
THE  
PRINCESS  
HAD, BY  
HER  
SIDE, A  
GUARDIAN.

WHO KEPT  
WATCH  
OVER HER  
LIPS AT ALL  
TIMES.





I WANT  
A LOVELY  
MEMORY  
LIKE  
THIS  
ONE!

I'M  
SICK  
OF  
LIVING  
LIKE  
THIS!

GOD!  
ENOUGH  
ALREADY!

FLIP

MY NAME  
IS BENIO  
KASUGAMI.  
I'M 15  
YEARS  
OLD.

IT'S  
THAT...

IF THERE'S  
ONE THING  
THAT'S  
BEEN  
DRILLED  
INTO ME  
EVER  
SINCE  
I WAS A  
CHILD...

WE'RE  
THE  
RICHEST  
PEOPLE  
IN JAPAN.

THE  
KASUGAMI  
FAMILY  
LINE GOES  
ALL THE  
WAY BACK  
TO THE  
MUROMACHI  
PERIOD.

SINCE  
YOUR  
PARENTS  
HAVE PASSED  
AWAY, YOU  
ARE THE ONLY  
ONE WHO CAN  
CARRY ON THE  
KASUGAMI  
FAMILY  
LINE.

I WANT  
TO GO  
TO  
SCHOOL!  
I WANT  
FRIENDS!  
I WANT  
A PROPER  
JOY-T-H!

I HAVEN'T  
BEEN  
OUTSIDE  
A SINGLE  
TIME SINCE  
THE DAY  
I WAS  
BORN!

...I WON'T  
BE  
ALLOWED  
TO SEE THE  
OUTSIDE  
WORLD  
UNTIL I'M  
20.

There's  
nothing  
I can do  
about it,  
My Lady.

THAT'S  
RIGHT!

UNCLE!

I WOULDN'T  
BE ABLE TO  
SLEEP IF  
WE LET YOU  
OUT OF THE  
HOUSE.

HE'S  
RIGHT.

My Lady,  
your  
lessons...

DOOOOOOH

IF YOU WENT  
OUTSIDE,  
EVERY MAN  
AND BOY  
IN JAPAN  
WOULD BE  
TRYING TO  
KISS YOU.

They're  
kusharung!



IT'S A  
TRADITION  
THAT  
DATES  
FURTHER  
BACK THAN  
ANYONE  
CAN  
REMEMBER.

THE HEIRESS  
OF THE  
KASUGAMI  
FAMILY MUST  
MARRY THE  
MAN WHO  
STEALS A  
KISS FROM  
HER.



OH, I'LL  
FINALLY  
BE ABLE...

...TO  
HAVE A  
FRIEND!

WE CAN  
WATCH TV  
AND TALK  
ABOUT  
MANGA  
AND...

WELL,  
AFTER  
ALL YOUR  
BEGGING, I'VE  
FINALLY BROUGHT  
YOU YOUR VERY  
OWN FRIEND!

REALLY?!

I WANT  
TO GO  
OUTSIDE,  
MAKE  
FRIENDS,  
TO SEE  
THE SUN  
SET.

NO ONE  
CARES  
ABOUT  
THAT  
TRADITION  
ANY MORE!

HE  
HE  
...







FROM NOW  
ON, I'LL BE  
YOUR FRIEND.  
PLEASED TO  
MEET YOU,  
M'LADY.

I'M  
TAMAKI  
KAGESHITA.



NOT SOME  
DUMB  
PLAYER!

I WANTED  
A GIRL  
FRIEND!

UNCLE,  
WHAT  
WERE YOU  
THINKING?!



NOW.  
NOW.  
WHY  
DO YOU  
LEAVE  
GIVES  
A TRY  
SINCE  
BROUGHT  
HIM ALL  
THE WAY  
HERE?

I DON'T  
WANT  
TO HANG  
OUT WITH  
SOMEBODY  
WHO SAYS  
THINGS  
LIKE  
THAT!

I mean,  
I DIDN'T  
REALLY  
FEEL LIKE  
IT, BUT THE  
PAY WAS  
JUST SO  
GOOD.

I ASKED,  
AND HE  
SAID HE'D  
DO IT.





SENSEI,  
I THINK  
THIS FLOWER  
WOULD BE  
HAPPIEST  
ARRANGED  
WITH YOU.

THERE  
HE  
GOES  
AGAIN!



WHY  
ARE  
YOU  
EVEN  
HERE?



FLOWER  
ARRANGING

JUST IGNORE  
THAT PLAYER!  
CONCENTRATE,  
CONCENTRATE...



AWW, ARE  
YOU JEALOUS,  
BENIO? THAT'S  
SO CUTE.



I'LL SHOW THEM  
ALL. I'LL RUN  
AWAY!

I CAN'T  
STAND  
SHARING  
A ROOF  
WITH THIS  
PLAYER!

WE'VE GOT  
TO STAND  
CLOSER  
TOGETHER.

JAPANESE  
DANCE

EH?

I K E M E N

CALLIGRAPHY

FKA  
DANCE  
GO

BENIO



BEFORE  
YOU IS  
ROASTED  
EGGPLANT.

TODAY'S  
MEAL WILL  
BE AUTUMN  
SEA BREAM  
STIR-FRIED  
WITH  
TURNIPS.

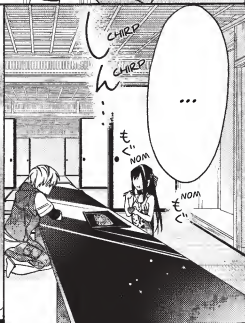
I'M  
EATING.  
COULD YOU  
PLEASE BE  
QUIET?

WOW,  
BENIO!  
DO YOU EAT  
THIS WELL  
EVERY DAY?



I GUESS  
SO.

I MEAN,  
MY UNCLE  
IS ALWAYS  
BUSY. I JUST  
DON'T REALLY  
EAT WITH  
ANYONE.



SEEMS  
LONELY.

HEY, SO,  
DO YOU  
ALWAYS  
EAT ALONE  
IN HERE?



**HOW RUDE!  
I'VE HAD FRIENDS!**

BOO オ  
HOO ヨ  
HOO ヨ  
...

**YOU REALLY  
DON'T HAVE  
A SINGLE  
FRIEND...**

COME ON,

**DON'T BE SUCH  
A WIMP.**

THUD

**HE WAS A BIT  
OF A CRY-BABY,  
BUT HE WAS  
KIND.**

**I ALWAYS HAD  
FUN WITH HIM.**



**TEN YEARS  
AGO...**

**...THERE WAS A BOY  
WHO ALWAYS CAME  
OVER TO PLAY.**

**BENIO,  
WAIT  
UP!**

**HE WAS MY  
FIRST FRIEND.**



**I'VE  
BEEN  
ALONE  
EVER  
SINCE.**

**I CAN'T  
REMEMBER  
HIS NAME,  
AND, EVEN IF  
I WANTED TO  
LOOK FOR HIM,  
IT'S NOT LIKE  
I CAN GO  
OUTSIDE.**

**BUT ONE  
DAY, HE JUST  
DISAPPEARED.**









WHAT?

OKAY,  
NOW, SAY  
"AHH".

WE'RE  
EATING  
HERE?

IT'S MY  
SPECIAL  
HOME-  
MADE  
ONIGIRI.

IT'S SORT  
OF LIKE  
A FIELD  
TRIP!



NOW  
も

...



I'M NOT  
GOING  
TO...

JUST  
EAT  
IT!



WHOA...

THIS IS  
BEAUTIFUL.



THIS  
IS  
DELICIOUS.

IT'S  
BEEN SO  
LONG SINCE  
I SHARED A  
MEAL WITH  
SOMEONE  
...



TA-  
DAAA!

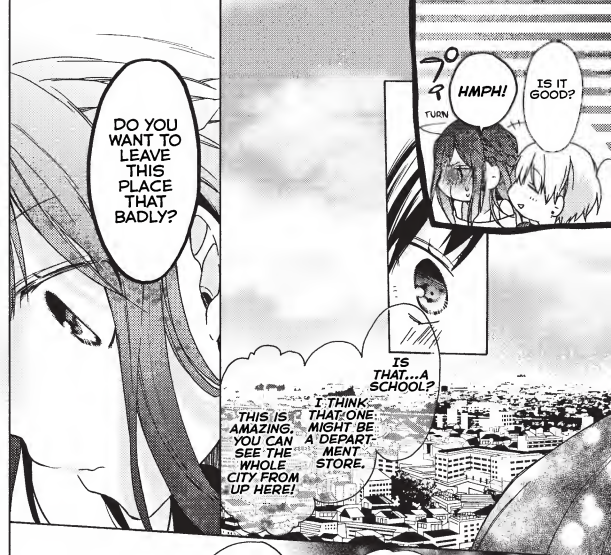
HERE  
YOU  
GO.

WHAT  
IS  
THIS  
...?



I NEVER  
KNEW THERE  
WAS A SPOT  
LIKE THIS  
AROUND  
HERE.









HAS  
IT?

GLAD TO  
HEAR IT.



BADUMP



HEY,  
TAMAKI!!

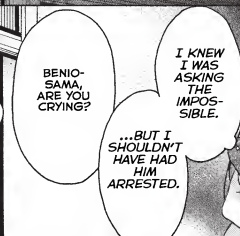
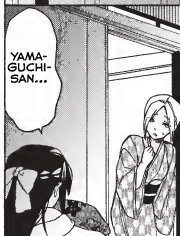
LET'S  
JUST  
DITCH  
THIS  
PLACE!



WHAT  
IS THIS  
FEEL-  
ING...?

MAYBE  
HE AND I  
COULD...





WOW! I'M  
REALLY  
OUTSIDE!

TODAY,  
LET'S DO  
ALL THE  
THINGS  
YOU'VE  
ALWAYS  
WANTED  
TO,  
BENIO-  
SAMA!

THIS IS  
THE FIRST  
TIME I'VE  
LEFT THE  
GROUNDS  
IN MY  
LIFE!

HUH?

...I KNOW  
A SECRET  
PATH YOU  
CAN USE TO  
ESCAPE.

SMIRK

SQUEEZE

I'VE  
ALWAYS  
WANTED  
TO TRY THIS  
STUFF!

ICE  
CREAM!

CREPES!

POPCORN!

It's  
so  
good!



NO,  
BENIO-  
SAMA...

YAMA-  
GUCHI-  
SAN?

IT'S  
GETTING  
LATE,  
THOUGH.  
WE HAD  
BETTER  
HEAD  
HOME.

Sigh...  
I  
BOUGHT  
SO  
MUCH!

TODAY  
HAS BEEN  
A DREAM  
COME  
TRUE!

It's so  
soft  
and  
cute!

Let's  
go here  
next.

Then  
we can...

...YOU  
WON'T BE  
GOING  
BACK  
TO THE  
MANSION.

NGH

?!  
!!

This would  
look good  
on you.

...BENIO-  
SAN?

ARE YOU  
AWAKE...

GUH  
...





I WAS SICK OF HAVING TO HUMOR THIS SHELTERED LITTLE GIRL,

BUT, FORTUNATELY, SHE WAS VERY EASY TO TRICK.

NO WAY! SHE WAS A SPY?



YAMAGUCHI-SAN?

WELL, THEN, BENIO-SAN, LET'S GET MARRIED!

I'M SURE YOU'RE AWARE THAT A KISS IS ALL IT TAKES TO SEAL THE DEAL!



WHAT AN IDIOT! THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING TO MARRY YOU JUST BECAUSE YOU KISS M—

ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS IS ABOUT THAT STUPID TRADITION?

IT WOULD BE SUCH A DISGRACE FOR A PERFECT MAN LIKE ME TO HAVE AN UGLY WIFE.

I'M GLAD YOU TURNED OUT TO BE PRETTY.







I DON'T WANT MY FIRST KISS TO BE STOLEN FROM ME LIKE THIS!

SHUDDER



I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU THINK.

A TRADITION OF 600 YEARS BEARS MORE WEIGHT THAN YOU KNOW.



THERE'S NO USE RESISTING. THIS IS THE TOP FLOOR OF THE 100-STORY YACHIYO TOWER.

LET ME GO!

THERE'S NO HOPE OF ANYONE COMING TO SAVE YOU.



THIS IS SO SCARY...



WHAT?

TAMAKI?!



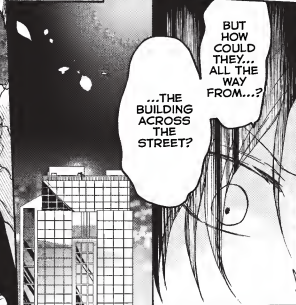
REDICULOUS...

THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!



WHAT THE HELL? A SNIPER?

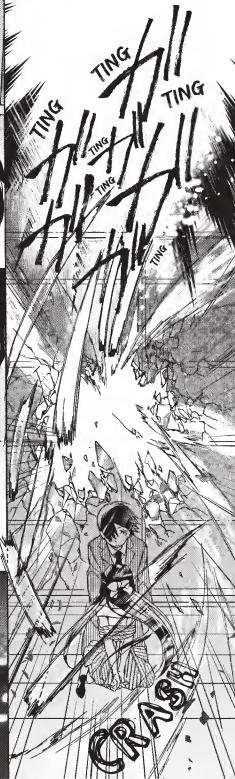
A SHURIK-  
EN?



BUT HOW  
COULD THEY...  
ALL THE  
WAY FROM...?

...THE  
BUILDING  
ACROSS  
THE  
STREET?

**HELP  
ME!**



**CRASH**





NO  
MATTER.  
DO YOU  
REALLY  
THINK  
YOU CAN  
TAKE DOWN  
ALL OF MY  
CIA-TRAINED  
SECURITY  
OFFICERS?

I DIDN'T  
THINK  
NINJAS  
STILL  
EXISTED.

THE  
SANCTITY  
OF THIS  
PRINCESS'S  
LIPS BEARS  
MORE  
WEIGHT TO  
ME THAN  
YOUR  
LIVES.

YOU  
SHOULD  
GIVE UP  
NOW.



TAMAKI!!

WHAT  
HOPE  
COULD  
SOME  
OUTDATED  
NINJA HAVE  
AGAINST  
MODERN  
TECHNOL-  
OGY?

FIRE!



THESE  
SHURIKEN...  
COULD IT  
BE TRUE?

BUT  
AS A  
GUARDIAN.

THE  
TRUTH  
IS THAT  
I WASN'T  
HIRED  
AS A  
FRIEND,



...OF  
THOSE  
WHO LURK  
IN THE  
SHADOWS  
PROTECTING  
THE  
KASUGAMI  
FAMILY.

I'VE  
HEARD  
RUMORS  
...



...LAST  
IN THE  
LINE OF  
NINJAS  
WHO HAVE  
SERVED THE  
KASUGAMI  
FAMILY  
FOR 600  
YEARS.

I'M  
TAMAKI  
KAGE-  
SHITA...



ARE YOU  
TELLING  
ME  
TAMAKI'S...  
A NINJA?

NINJA?





...WHAT  
HOPE DO  
YOU THINK  
YOU HAVE  
AGAINST  
A NINJA  
IN THE DARK?



HUH?



...FILLING  
THE ROOM  
WITH  
TRAPS!

I DIDN'T  
EVEN SEE  
HIM...



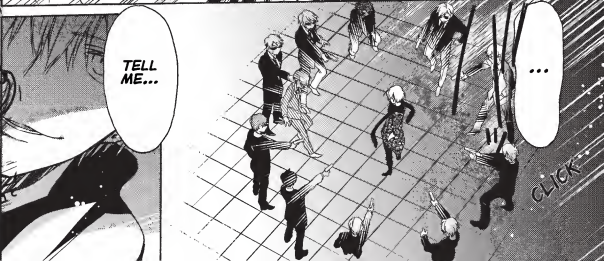
**NINPO GHOSTLY KAMA!**



YOU'LL  
HAVE  
TO DO  
BETTER  
THAN  
THAT,  
BOY.



AN  
ILLUSION?!



TELL  
ME...

....







I'M  
SORRY,  
BENIO.

SQUEEZE

TAMAKI...?

LET'S  
GET  
MARRIED.



LET'S  
ELOPE!

IF OUR  
PARENTS  
FOUND OUT,  
THEY'D BE  
REALLY  
MAD,  
HUH?



AND  
STAY  
THAT  
WAY!

SHUT  
UP!

SMACK

WHAT  
DO  
YOU  
WANT?  
LET US  
GO!

?!

ISN'T  
THIS  
ONE  
THAT  
KASUGAMI  
GIRL?

WELL,  
LOOK  
WHAT  
THE  
CAT  
DRAGGED  
IN...



WHAM

HUH,  
WHAT  
THE...

A  
SMOKE  
SCREEN?

SORRY,  
BENIO,  
  
THIS  
IS  
ALL  
MY  
FAULT...

GAHH...

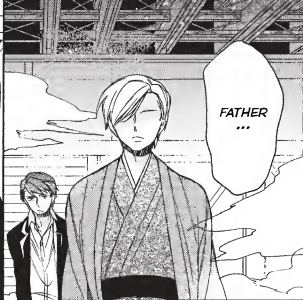
UGH

POW

THUD

!







...SO  
THAT  
I CAN  
PROTECT  
YOU NEXT  
TIME.



YOU'VE  
DONE  
WELL,  
TAMAKI.





...  
WELL SAID.



HEY, GIRL,  
GOOD  
MORNING!



WHAT THE  
HELL? I DO  
YOU A FAVOR  
AND THIS  
IS HOW YOU  
REPAY ME?

WHA...?



OW!!

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING IN  
MY ROOM?  
GET OUT  
OF HERE!

EEEK!



BUT I  
SHOULD  
TELL YOU  
THAT BENIO  
DOESN'T  
REMEMBER  
THAT TIME.  
IT WAS TOO  
MUCH OF A  
SHOCK.

YOU  
PROBABLY  
ALREADY  
REALIZE  
IT,

IT'S  
HARD TO  
BELIEVE...

THAT  
JUST TEN  
YEARS AGO  
YOU WERE  
THAT WHINY  
LITTLE  
BOY.

PLEASE,  
LET BENIO  
GO TO  
SCHOOL.



I WILL  
PROTECT  
HER...

WITH  
MY LIFE.









HEH

REACH

YOU'RE  
TO PROTECT  
MY LIPS, NO  
MATTER  
WHAT!

I'LL BE  
THE ONE  
GIVING  
ORDERS!

...MY  
LADY.

I'LL  
DO SO  
WITHOUT  
MERCY...

# NINJA LOVE

## HANA TO SHINOBI

Hello to those who already know me and to those who don't! I'm Narumi Hasegaki.

How did you like "Ninja Love"? This story was originally published as a one-off, but it was so popular that I now get to turn it into a series called *Hana to Shinobi*! (tears of joy)

Thankfully, this is the second time I'm having a series published (the first time I got to draw for Aito Aoyagi-sensei's SF mystery series *The Laboratory of Lilika Tonegawa*; all three volumes are on sale in Japan now), but this is the first time I'm doing a series on my own.

I was sunuuper nervous at first. My heart was racing.

Originally, this was going to be a one-off, and then it was only going to be four chapters, but thanks to everyone's encouragement, Benio and Tamaki's story is going to continue!

I hope everyone will continue to follow these two as they start to grow up faster than their author can handle!

Narumi Hasegaki, 2016

## SPECIAL THANKS TO ♡

- The editors at Nakayoshi
- My family
- My editor S-sama
- My friend A-chan

AND TO ALL THE  
LOVELY READERS OF  
HANA TO SHINOBI







LEAF 1

THE LADY AND THE NINJA'S CONTRACT







IT'S MY  
FIRST  
DAY OF  
SCHOOL!

HAVE A GOOD  
DAY, MY LADY!

I'M THE  
HEIRESS  
OF THE  
KASUGAMI  
FAMILY.  
WE'RE THE  
RICHEST  
FAMILY IN  
JAPAN, AND  
OUR LINE DATES  
ALL THE WAY  
BACK TO THE  
MUROMACHI  
PERIOD.

I'M BENIO  
KASUGAMI.



IT'S  
BEEN A  
LONG 15  
YEARS...

UNTIL NOW,  
I'VE BEEN  
CONFINED TO  
MY FAMILY'S  
PROPERTY  
MY WHOLE  
LIFE...



YOU'VE  
BEEN  
BURSTING  
WITH  
ENERGY  
SINCE THIS  
MORNING,  
HUH, BENIO?

I NEVER  
THOUGHT  
THE DAY  
WOULD  
COME  
WHEN I  
COULD  
GO TO  
SCHOOL.

チカラ

SIZZLE

HAVE  
YOU BEEN  
LOOKING  
FORWARD  
TO GOING  
TO SCHOOL  
WITH ME  
THAT  
MUCH?



That's the  
only way I'll  
let her go  
to school

GRAB

BUT  
WHY  
SHOULD  
I HAVE  
TO...

YOU  
KNOW  
THERE'S  
NOTHING  
WE CAN DO  
ABOUT IT.  
IT WAS  
YOUR  
UNCLE'S  
DECISION.

WHY DO I  
HAVE TO  
GO TO  
SCHOOL  
WITH  
YOU?

THIS IS  
AS BAD  
AS I  
THOUGHT!

FEED UP

HE'S  
BEEN  
LIKE  
THIS  
ALL  
DAY...



OR  
WOULD  
YOU BE ALL  
RIGHT WITH  
HAVING TO  
MARRY  
SOME  
RANDOM  
GUY?

THERE'S  
A LOT OF  
PEOPLE  
OUT THERE  
LOOKING  
TO STEAL  
A KISS  
FROM YOU,  
REMEMBER?



THERE'S  
NO WAY THE  
KIDS AT  
SCHOOL  
ARE GOING TO  
TRY TO  
KISS ME!

HE  
DOES  
HAVE A  
POINT.

YOU'RE  
TOO  
CLOSE,  
MISTER!

SMACK



IT'S A TRADITION OF THE  
KASUGAMI FAMILY THAT...

...WHOEVER CAN GET PAST THE  
NINJA WHO GUARDS THE PRINCESS...

...AND STEAL A KISS FROM  
HER WILL GET TO MARRY HER.

THE ONE  
WHO  
GUARDS  
MY LIPS  
IS...

...BENIO.

THERE'S  
NO WAY THAT  
CAN HAPPEN  
THESE DAYS!

GUU

UHH

EET!

GRAB

...LAST  
IN A LINE  
OF NINJAS  
WHO HAVE  
SERVED MY  
FAMILY FOR  
GENERATIONS.

THIS  
PLAYER,  
TAMAKI  
KAGESHITA...

EEEEK!



YOU DON'T WANT TO BE LATE ON YOUR FIRST DAY, DO YOU?

IT'S A SHORT-CUT.

WHA-WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL?

♪ HUP

WHAT?!

That sounds like a joke

I JUST WANT TO BE A NORMAL TEENAGER!

What's this route we're taking, anyway?!



BOING

I DON'T WANT THEM TO KNOW MY STATUS, EITHER!

WAIT, TAMAKI, DON'T LET ANYONE AT SCHOOL FIND OUT YOU'RE A NINJA!

Umm...  
WELL, THEN, LET ME INTRODUCE OUR NEW STUDENTS.

WHOA

ハハハ

MURMUR

ハハハ

She's hot...

I NEED TO MAKE UP FOR THE 15 YEARS OF CHILDHOOD I MISSED!

友情 (FRIENDSHIP)  
恋愛 (ROMANCE)  
イベント (SPECIAL EVENTS)

SPECIAL EVENTS

"CHARMED  
TO MAKE  
OUR  
ACQUAIN-  
TANCE"?

I'M  
BENIO  
KASUGAMI.  
I'M  
CHARMED  
TO MAKE  
EVERYONE'S  
ACQUAIN-  
TANCE.

BOW

THESE  
ARE THE  
CLASS-  
MATES  
I'VE BEEN  
LONGING  
FOR!

SINCE  
WE'RE  
IN THE  
SAME  
CLASS,  
WE'RE ALL  
ALREADY  
FRIENDS!

?!  
TWITCH  
GLINT











KERTHUNK

BUT THAT  
GIRL HAS  
ALREADY  
LEFT.

I DID  
IT!

I get it  
now. So  
you put  
money in!

YEAH,  
SEEMS LIKE  
PEOPLE ARE  
REALLY INTO  
THEIR CLUBS  
AT THIS  
SCHOOL.

CLUBS...

SHE  
SAID  
SHE HAD  
A CLUB  
MEET-  
ING.

HUH?

OH  
YEAH...

HAHA!

FRIEND

HEHEHE!

...

ANYWAY,  
WE HAD  
BETTER  
GET  
GOING,  
TOO.

NO WAY,  
YOU  
KNOW IT  
WON'T  
BE.

IT'LL  
BE FINE!

UH-  
OH...  
  
BENIO,  
WE  
CAN'T  
DON'T  
FORGET  
ABOUT  
YOUR  
CURFEW.

I HAVE  
TO JOIN  
A CLUB.  
I HAVE  
TO!

I'VE  
GOT  
IT!

SIGH...

IT'S  
NOT LIKE  
THERE'S A  
CLUB YOU  
COULD JOIN  
THIS LATE IN  
THE TERM,  
ANYWAY.

い友達  
つぱい  
てさる

LOTS OF  
FRIENDS

青春

YOUTH

部活

CLUBS

HUH?

UH-  
OH...

SOCCER CLUB

SEEKING  
MANAGER!!

REQUIREMENTS

- \* Not currently in any clubs
- \* Available as late as 6 or 7
- \* Likes soccer!

For those  
wanting to  
apply

If you're even a little  
interested, come and  
see us!

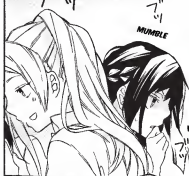
Please contact  
Soccer club sponsor - Sato,  
homeroom teacher of class 3-1  
Soccer club chair - Hayate Satomi







BRUSH



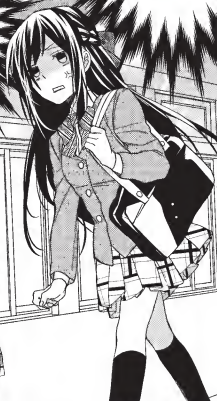
At this rate, I may have to resort to force.

MUMBLE

MUMBLE

HE'S ALWAYS GETTING IN MY WAY. HOW DARE HE RUIN MY CHANCE LIKE THIS!

THAT DAMN PLAYER!



THAT WAS PREP-SAN JUST NOW!

!



WAIT...

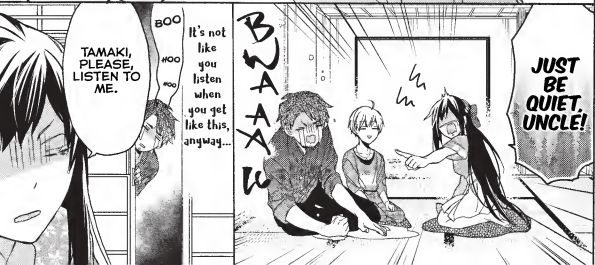
Since I missed my chance back in the classroom, and all...

HERE IT IS!

TODAY I'LL GIVE HER THE JUICE I OWE HER, FOR SURE.

WHAT?!









BUT  
INSTEAD  
YOU'RE  
BEING  
HELD BACK  
BY THIS  
OUTDATED  
TRADITION.

THESE  
ARE THE  
BEST  
YEARS OF  
YOUR LIFE.  
YOU MUST  
WANT TO  
BE OUT  
HAVING  
FUN,



I FEEL  
LIKE I'M  
DOING YOU A  
DISSERVICE.



AND  
WHATEVER  
YOU SAY, MY  
CONTRACT  
STILL  
ISN'T  
UP.

YOU'RE  
NOT MY  
BOSS.  
YOUR  
UNCLE  
IS,



AND  
NOTHING  
BAD HAS  
HAPPENED,  
SO I'M  
FINE!

I'VE  
BEEN AT-  
TENDING  
SCHOOL  
FOR  
SEVERAL  
DAYS  
NOW,

I RELEASE  
YOU FROM  
YOUR  
CONTRACT!



SNAP



IT  
PAYS  
REALLY  
WELL.

WHY DO  
YOU WANT  
THIS JOB  
SO  
BADLY?

...  
SLAM

GOD,  
I DON'T  
WANT TO BE  
PROTECTED  
BY SOMEONE  
WHO'S JUST  
IN IT FOR  
THE MONEY!

THIS  
IS JUST  
LIKE WHEN  
I WASN'T  
ALLOWED OFF  
THE FAMILY  
PROPERTY!

YOU  
IDIOT!

FROM  
NOW ON,  
I'M DOING  
THINGS  
MY WAY!

CHAIRMAN!

I'M SO  
HAPPY TO  
HAVE YOU  
JOIN US!

REALLY?

I'm  
looking  
forward  
to being  
part of  
the team.

I'M  
FINALLY  
JOINING  
THE CLUB!

CLUB MEMBERSHIP  
APPLICATION

GRABS

HAND

EVERYONE  
EVEN HAS  
THE SAME  
MARKS ON  
THEIR  
FORE-  
HEADS!

WOW,  
YOU  
ALL  
MAKE  
SUCH A  
GREAT  
TEAM!

WE'RE  
ALL REALLY  
HOPING TO  
WIN THE NEXT  
TOURNAMENT.



Yeah,  
let's  
do  
this!



I WAS  
A LITTLE  
WORRIED  
THAT I  
HAD JUST  
DRAGGED  
YOU HERE.

NOT AT  
ALL!



THIS IS  
ALL JUST  
SO FUN!



SO  
WHAT  
DO YOU  
THINK?





OH,  
YEAH?  
GREAT!

I THINK  
IT'LL  
BE FUN  
TO HAVE  
YOU ON  
THE TEAM,  
KASUGA-  
MI-SAN.

THIS  
IS MY  
FIRST  
TIME  
DOING  
THIS  
KIND OF  
THING.

IT'S  
JUST SO  
GREAT TO  
BE SHARING  
AN ACTIVITY  
WITH ALL  
THESE  
PEOPLE ON  
SUCH A  
BEAUTIFUL  
DAY.



REALLY...

HUH?



WHAT?

I HEARD  
RUMORS  
THAT THE  
KASUGAMI  
GIRL HAD  
BEEN LET  
OUT OF  
HER  
CAGE.

CH-  
CHAIR-  
MAN...?!



?!



IF I CAN  
KISS YOU,  
YOU HAVE TO  
MARRY ME,  
RIGHT?



YOU'VE  
REALLY  
SAVED ME  
A LOT OF  
TROUBLE.  
I NEVER  
THOUGHT  
YOU'D JUST  
COME RIGHT  
TO ME.



STEP  
X  
//  
I  
ALTHOUGH, I QUIT SOME TIME AGO. HARD TO IMAGINE A GUY LIKE ME AS A SERVANT, RIGHT?

I'M A NINJA FOR THE OBOROYA FAMILY OF THE WEST.

WAIT... WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

NO WAY!  
SO THAT'S WHAT HE'S AFTER!



YOU CAN TELL THEY ARE MY PUPPETS BY THOSE MARKS ON THEIR FOREHEADS.

I CONTROL PEOPLE WITH MY ILLUSIONS.

WHAT'S WITH THE OTHERS?



THIS IS BAD!

NOW, HERE'S AN ORDER FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN:

GET THAT GIRL!

I CAN'T GET AWAY FROM THEM ALL!





I DIDN'T  
THINK YOU  
WERE HERE  
TODAY, BUT  
YOU  
SHOWED  
UP TO SAVE  
YOUR LITTLE  
LADY,  
HUH?

TCU!  
A  
NINJA,  
HUH?

QUIT  
HARASSING  
THE  
MANAGER,  
YOU FAKE  
CHAIRMAN.

TAMAKI...!

WHAT  
THE?

?!

SHE SAID  
SHE DIDN'T  
WANT TO BE  
PROTECTED  
BY SOMEONE  
WHO'S JUST  
AFTER  
MONEY,

OR  
DID YOU  
WANT ME TO  
PROTECT  
YOU,  
AFTER  
ALL?

NO,  
NOT  
REALLY.

I MEAN,  
IF YOU ASK,  
I CAN THINK  
ABOUT IT...

YOU HAD  
BETTER...

命令  
THAT'S AN ORDER!

...PROTECT  
ME!!



TAMAKI,  
HE'S MIND  
CONTROL-  
LING THE  
SOCCER  
CLUB!

DON'T  
HURT  
THEM!

WILL DO,  
MY LADY.

YOU  
SURE  
ARE  
FUSSY!

PSH

PSH

PSH

PSH





LOOKS  
LIKE WE'VE  
GOT YOU  
CORNERED.



SMACK

Ha!

A  
SINGLE,  
PITIFUL  
NINJA  
IS ALL  
YOU'VE  
GOT?

OH,  
HOW THE  
KASUGA-  
MIS HAVE  
FALLEN!

TAMAKI!



THIS IS  
ABSOLUTELY  
UNFORGIV-  
ABLE!

THESE  
SOCCER  
PLAYERS  
DON'T HAVE  
ANYTHING TO  
DO WITH  
THIS, BUT  
YOU JUST  
USE THEM  
FOR YOUR  
DIRTY  
WORK!

YOU'RE  
PATHETIC!

GUH  
...

BENIO.









SLUMP

TAMAKI!!

STAND.

HOW  
COULD  
HE...

NOW,  
YOU  
ARE MY  
PUPPET!

HUH...?

UNFOR-  
TUNATELY  
FOR  
YOU...

CAT  
CH

STAGGER

HAHA!



...THERE'S  
ONLY ONE  
PERSON  
I TAKE  
ORDERS  
FROM.



YOU  
BROKE  
MY  
SPELL  
BY  
HURTING  
YOURSELF?!



WHA  
...







**NINPO**  
**DREAMING PUPPET PLAY**

**I CAN'T...  
MOVE MY  
BODY!**



YOU  
WERE  
RIGHT,  
TAMAKI.

QUIVER

?!  
QUIVER

OH,  
MASTER,  
ALLOW ME  
TO TIE  
MYSELF  
UP

WHERE  
DID I  
GET THE  
IDEA THAT  
A WIMP  
LIKE ME  
COULD  
KISS  
BENIO-  
SAMA?

SPIN

SPIN

OWWW!

SQUEE

I'M  
SORRY...

THAT I  
GOT YOU  
HURT.

I MEAN,  
YOU'D  
HAVE  
CRIED  
IF I HURT  
ANY OF THE  
SOCCER  
PLAYERS...





...AND  
IT COMES  
OUT OF MY  
PAYCHECK  
IF I MAKE  
YOU CRY.



EVERYONE,  
THANK  
GOD  
YOU'RE  
ALL  
RIGHT!

PHEW

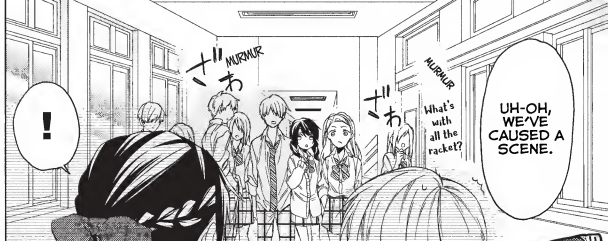


OH MY  
GOD,  
OW!

YOU  
IDIOT!



HUH?  
WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON...?









COME  
TO THINK  
OF IT, YOUR  
SELF-INTRO-  
DUCTION  
WAS KIND  
OF WEIRD,  
HUH?

IT ALL  
MAKES  
SENSE  
NOW.

YEAH  
...

IT'S  
REALLY  
YOUR  
FIRST  
TIME?



HUH?

Wow!  
SO  
YOU'RE,  
LIKE  
SOME  
SHEL-  
TERED  
RICH  
GIRL?

THANKS  
FOR  
GETTING  
ME  
ANOTHER  
JUICE.

AND  
YOU'RE SO  
SERIOUS  
ABOUT THAT  
JUICE MORE  
THAN A  
WEEK  
LATER!

I MEAN,  
YOU'VE NEVER  
BEEN TO  
SCHOOL OR  
EVEN USED  
A VENDING  
MACHINE  
BEFORE!

HEH  
THIS IS  
JUST TOO  
MUCH!





OF  
COURSE!

LET'S BE  
FRIENDS!

AND I'M  
MOMOE!

MY  
NAME'S  
RAN.



I'M  
GLAD  
THAT  
WORKED  
OUT.

You're  
so loud.

B  
Y  
E  
B  
Y  
E  
!

Bye Bye!



SMIRK

I still  
want to  
join one,  
though!

NOW: I  
UNDERSTAND  
THAT: BEING  
YOUNG: ISN'T  
JUST: ABOUT:  
CLUBS!

IF YOU  
SAY  
SO.

OUR  
CONTRACT  
IS BACK  
ON!

THANK  
YOU,  
TAMAKI!

TUG  
W

TH-  
THAT'S  
NOT  
WHAT I'M  
SAYING!

YOU  
SHOULD  
WATCH  
THAT  
MOUTH  
OF  
YOURS!

YOU  
REALLY  
ARE  
HELPLESS  
WITHOUT  
ME.



LEAF 2 ✕ THE LADY AND HER FIRST LOVE? (PART 1)



BUT,  
ONE DAY,  
HE JUST  
DISAP-  
PEARED.

LOOKING  
BACK, I  
MIGHT  
SAY HE  
WAS MY  
FIRST  
LOVE.

LONG  
AGO, I  
HAD A  
FRIEND  
WHO  
WOULD  
PLAY  
WITH  
ME.

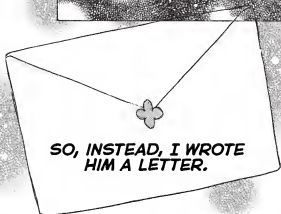
I WAS  
SO SAD...

...THAT  
I WOULD  
JUST  
SPEND  
EVERY  
DAY  
CRYING.



I COULDN'T GO OUT AND LOOK FOR HIM...

...BUT I WAS SO LONELY.



SO, INSTEAD, I WROTE  
HIM A LETTER.



I DIDN'T  
KNOW HIS  
ADDRESS,  
SO I JUST  
WROTE  
HIS NAME  
ON THE  
ENVELOPE...

...AND  
STUCK  
IT IN MY  
MAILBOX.

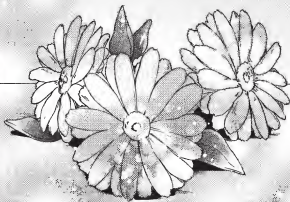


WHEN I CHECKED  
THE MAIL THE  
NEXT MORNING...



...THERE  
WERE  
THESE  
BEAUTIFUL  
FLOWERS  
WAITING  
FOR ME.

I FELT  
LIKE  
THAT  
WAS  
HIS  
REPLY.



I JUST  
HAVE TO  
MEET HIM  
AGAIN  
SOMEDAY!

I can't imagine  
what kind of  
wonderful man  
he's become...

WOW!  
THAT'S SO  
ROMANTIC!

RICH  
GIRLS  
GET TO  
HAVE  
THE BEST  
MEMORIES,  
HUH?

NOW, I'VE  
PRESSED  
THOSE  
MARIGOLDS,  
AND I CARRY  
THEM  
WITH ME  
WHEREVER  
I GO.

I'M BENIO  
KASUGAMI.

RIGHT  
NOW, I'M  
TALKING  
WITH MY  
FRIENDS  
ABOUT  
THE MOST  
GLORIOUS  
LOVE I'VE  
KNOWN.

PSH...



HE'S  
A NINJA.  
HE'S ALWAYS  
PROTECTING  
ME FROM  
DANGER.

LATELY,  
I'VE BEEN  
STARTING  
TO THINK  
HE'S NOT  
SO BAD...

ONE  
OF YOUR  
SERVANTS  
PROBABLY  
JUST SNUCK  
THEM IN  
THERE.

I MEAN,  
YOU WERE  
WAY TOO  
YOUNG  
TO FALL  
IN LOVE.  
HAHA!

BUT...

SOMETIMES  
I JUST  
CAN'T  
STAND  
HIM!

A PLAYER  
LIKE YOU  
WOULD  
NEVER  
UNDER-  
STAND!



NO  
WAY, IT  
COULDN'T  
HAVE BEEN  
HIM.

THIS GUY  
IS TAMAKI  
KAGESHITA.



DO THEY MEAN...  
THAT CULTURE  
FAIR?!

I WONDER  
WHAT  
OUR  
CLASS  
WILL DO  
THIS  
YEAR?

Anyway,  
I GUESS  
THE  
CULTURE  
FAIR IS  
COMING  
UP, HUH?

I'm so  
excited!

"CULTURE  
FAIR"?

LIKE  
THE  
ONE I  
ALWAYS  
SEE IN  
MANGA!

WOW,  
THIS IS  
AMAZING!

THE GOOD  
CULTURE  
OF OUR  
FAIR!

Culture  
Fair

WELCOME  
TO THE  
CULTURE  
FAIR!

WELCOME  
TO THE  
CULTURE  
FAIR!

EXCUSE  
ME!

I WOULD  
LIKE TO BE  
ON THE  
CULTURE  
FAIR  
EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE!

SORRY,  
BUT  
IT'S  
TOO  
LATE.  
THEY'VE  
ALREADY  
CHOSEN  
THE  
COMMITTEE.

DONG



NO! I'VE  
ALWAYS  
WANTED TO  
BE ON THE  
COMMIT-  
TEE...

CLATTER

SORRY  
I'M  
LATE!



HE'S  
NAOTO.

OH!  
HE  
WAS  
OUT OF  
SCHOOL  
FOR A  
WHILE, SO  
I GUESS  
YOU DON'T  
KNOW HIM,  
BENIO.

BUT WHO  
IS HE?

THAT GUY MUST  
BE ON THE  
EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE...

HEY,  
DON'T GO  
SHOWING  
UP LATE ON  
A DAY LIKE  
THIS! WE'RE  
CHOOSING  
WHAT TO DO  
FOR THE  
CULTURE  
FAIR.

I overslept  
a little...

OUR  
SEATS  
ARE NEXT  
TO EACH  
OTHER...

I'M GLAD  
HE SEEMS  
NICE.

SMIRK

I'M  
NAOTO  
OSAKA. I  
GUESS WE'LL  
BE SITTING  
NEXT TO  
EACH OTHER.  
PLEASD  
TO MEET  
YOU!

WE  
HAVE A  
TRANSFER  
STUDENT,  
HUH?

?!  
SHUDDER

HEHEHE

I'LL  
HAVE  
TO MAKE  
FRIENDS  
WITH HIM  
RIGHT  
AWAY...

ARE  
A MAID  
CAFÉ OR A  
HAUNTED  
HOUSE.

IT  
LOOKS  
LIKE THE  
MOST  
POPULAR  
CHOICES...

PUT ON A PLAY  
HAUNTED  
HOUSE  
MAID  
CAFÉ



**CHANNEL-  
ING THE  
DEAD?!**

UH...

IF WE  
DO A  
HAUNTED  
HOUSE, I  
COULD GET  
IN TOUCH  
WITH A  
FAMOUS  
MEDIUM...

**FANCY  
MAIDS?!**

OH,  
OH!

IF WE  
DO A MAID  
CAFÉ, I CAN  
HAVE ALL MY  
SERVANTS  
COME  
HELP US  
OUT!



...



SOME  
OTHER  
CLASS WILL  
PROBABLY DO  
A HAUNTED  
HOUSE,  
TOO.

BUT  
DIDN'T THIS  
CLASS DO  
A MAID CAFÉ  
LAST YEAR?!

BE A  
LITTLE  
MORE  
DISCREET,  
WHY  
DON'T  
YOU?!

ALL  
RIGHT,  
LOOKS LIKE  
IT'S TIME  
FOR MY  
HIDDEN  
TALENT: MY  
ONE-MAN  
SHOW!

"DISCREET?"

MAID  
CAFÉ

SIZZLE  
フ  
ァ  
ラ



SOMETHING  
A LITTLE  
WEIRD WILL  
GET MORE  
ATTENTION,  
RIGHT?

THAT  
MIGHT BE  
GOOD...

WHAT?

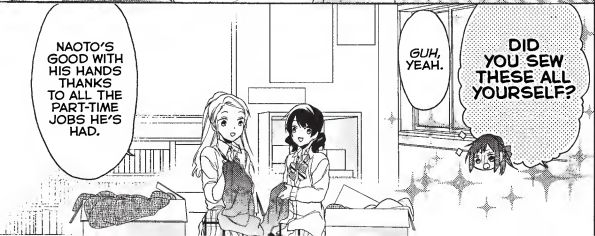
THAT'S  
IT! WHY  
DON'T  
WE DO A  
NINJA  
CAFÉ?

NINJA  
CAFÉ

WHAT?!

TINK  
TINK  
TINK

TINK







I DON'T HAVE PARENTS, SO I JUST LIVE WITH THIS GUY WHO'S LIKE A BROTHER TO ME.

I WORK HARD FOR HIS SAKE...

LOTS OF PEOPLE HAVE PART-TIME JOBS...

THAT'S SO VERY MOVING!

Oh, yeah...  
YOU SEE, BENIO IS...

BLAH  
BLAH  
BLAH



HEY, I HAD A FRIEND!

SO PLEASE BE HER FRIEND, NAOTO...

Exactly...  
SHE WASN'T ALLOWED OFF HER FAMILY'S PROPERTY AND DIDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS...

Whoa!!  
SO YOU'RE RICH!

おおよよ...  
HOO HOO HOO HOO





ISN'T THAT A  
MARIGOLD?

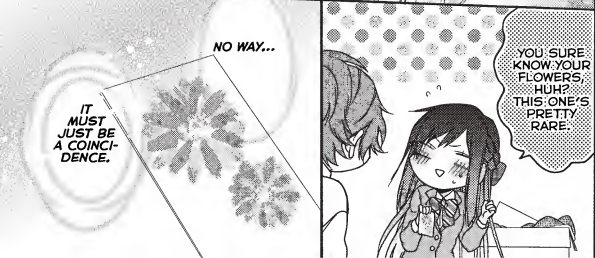
ANYWAY,  
LOOKS LIKE I'D  
BETTER  
TELL THE  
STORY OF  
MY FIRST  
LOVE  
AGAIN...

OH,  
HEY.



BADUMP

WHAT...?



NO WAY...

IT  
MUST  
JUST BE  
A COINCIDENCE.

YOU SURE  
KNOW YOUR  
FLOWERS,  
HUH?  
THIS ONE'S  
PRETTY  
RARE.



DO YOU  
WANT TO  
GO OUT  
WITH  
ME?

HEY,  
NAOTO!

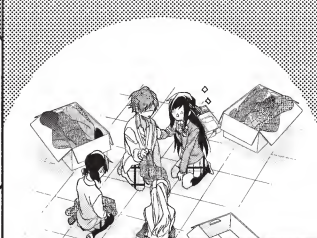


YEAH,  
ISN'T IT  
PRETTY?

I DO  
KNOW  
FLOWERS  
PRETTY  
WELL.









WELL, I'LL  
SHOW HIM!  
I'LL PROVE  
THAT NAOITO  
WAS MY  
FIRST  
LOVE!

HE  
HE  
HE

DON'T  
WORRY  
ABOUT  
IT!

IT'S SO BIG!

BENIO  
INVITED  
US OVER.  
THAT'S  
WHY.

WHY  
DO WE  
HAVE TO  
DO THIS  
AT BENIO'S  
HOUSE?

HERE'S  
THE  
PARLOR!

MAYBE  
HE'LL  
RECOG-  
NIZE THE  
HOUSE.

WOW!  
IT'S  
LIKE  
AN OLD  
FASH-  
IONED  
INN!

Well,  
then,

COME  
RIGHT  
IN! I'LL  
SHOW YOU  
AROUND!

A-all right...

IT'S  
HUGE!

AND  
HERE'S  
THE  
YARD.

WHERE  
DOES  
IT  
END?

キレ  
ツメ







ME  
AND  
NAOTO?!

WHAT?

NUMBER  
TWO,  
KISS  
NUMBER  
THREE!

?!  
!!

WHOA!  
YOU TWO  
SHOULD  
JUST KISS  
AND START  
GOING OUT,  
ALREADY!

...EVEN IF  
HE MIGHT  
HAVE BEEN  
MY FIRST  
LOVE, THIS  
IS GOING  
WAY TOO  
FAST!

And what  
about the  
tradition?

AREN'T  
YOU  
HAPPY,  
BENIO-  
CHAN?

Huh?

I  
MEAN...

I-I-I...





ALL  
RIGHT!  
I'LL  
DO  
IT!

DON'T  
MOVE...



WHAT?



NO,  
HE ISN'T  
REALLY  
GOING  
TO...





WHAT  
ARE  
YOU  
DOING  
HERE?

YOU'RE  
USING  
YOUR  
NINJA  
SKILLS  
AGAINST  
ME!



DON'T  
YOU THINK  
YOU'RE  
BEING A  
LITTLE  
RECKLESS?



DO  
YOU STILL  
THINK HE  
WAS YOUR  
FIRST  
LOVE?



MY  
MEMORIES  
OF HIM  
ARE REALLY  
IMPORTANT  
TO ME!

BUT I  
GUESS  
SOME  
PLAYER  
LIKE YOU  
WOULDN'T  
GET THAT.



JUST  
FORGET  
ABOUT IT,  
ALREADY.

I CAN'T  
JUST  
FORGET  
ABOUT  
IT.





BADUMP

HE HAS...?

EVEN  
I'VE HAD  
SOMEONE  
I REALLY  
LIKED,  
YOU  
KNOW.



YOU  
DAMN  
PLAYER!

BLEH

Well,  
EITHER  
WAY,

I CAN  
ONLY LET  
A GUY HAVE  
YOU IF HE'S  
HOTTER  
THAN  
ME.

ANYWAY,  
DO YOU  
EVEN HAVE  
ANY PROOF  
THAT HE WAS  
YOUR FIRST  
LOVE YET?



BUT  
THAT'S  
NOT THE  
ISSUE!



SINCE  
I DON'T  
HAVE ANY  
PROOF...



...I'LL  
JUST  
ASK  
NAOTO  
DIRECTLY!

...

ALTHOUGH,  
I DIDN'T  
REALIZE  
TAMAKI  
HAD A  
FIRST LOVE,  
TOO.



NAOTO!



THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
I WANT TO  
ASK YOU.



WHERE  
WERE  
YOU?  
RAN AND  
MOMOE  
HAD TO GO  
LOOKING  
FOR YOU!

ACK!

...FIRST  
LOVE?

FLICK

WERE  
YOU...

?!  
WHY'D  
THE  
POWER  
JUST  
GO  
OUT?

...MY  
...





KEEP  
QUIET.

IS HE  
AFTER A  
KISS?

?!

COME  
WITH ME,  
BENIO  
KASUGAMI.



HEY!

WHAT  
DO YOU  
THINK  
YOU'RE  
DOING?



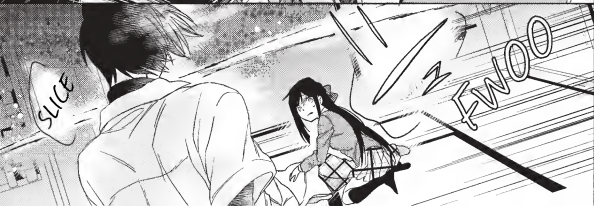
WHAT  
THE HELL?!  
THIS IS MY  
HOUSE!

HOW  
COULD  
HE JUST  
SNEAK  
IN LIKE  
THAT?











TAMAKI!

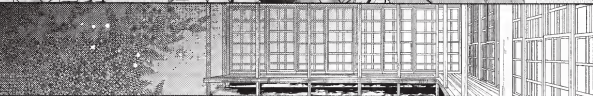
GET  
AWAY  
FROM  
HER.

...

!

WAIT!

POOF







REALLY,  
IT'S FINE.

SO  
STOP  
CRYING,  
OKAY?



OH!

しゅしゅ...  
WAH



FROM  
NOW ON,  
I'LL COME  
CHECK  
ON YOU  
EVERY  
DAY!

WHAT?!

IT'S MY  
FAULT YOU  
GOT HURT!  
I'LL DO  
ANYTHING  
TO MAKE  
IT UP TO  
YOU.

OKAY?





...DO  
YOU  
STILL  
WANT  
TO GO  
OUT?



SO...



HUH?





**DO  
YOU  
STILL  
WANT  
TO GO  
OUT?**

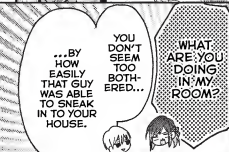
**LEAF 3 ✕ THE LADY AND HER FIRST LOVE? (PART 2)**





I DON'T  
THINK  
SO.

NAOTO  
MUST HAVE  
BEEN PINING  
AFTER ME  
THE WHOLE  
TIME!



...BY  
HOW  
EASILY  
THAT GUY  
WAS ABLE  
TO SNEAK  
IN TO YOUR  
HOUSE.

YOU  
DON'T  
SEEM  
TOO  
BORED...

...WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING  
IN MY  
ROOM?



WHAT?!

IS  
THIS  
...

IS  
THIS  
...

...WHAT  
IT'S LIKE  
WHEN  
SOMEONE  
LIKES YOU  
BACK?



HEY!

BENIO...

...I'M  
WORRIED  
ABOUT  
YOU.



CREAK

...ARE  
YOU  
REALLY  
GOING TO  
GO OUT  
WITH  
THAT  
GUY?

TELL  
ME...

HAVE YOU  
FORGOTTEN  
ABOUT THE  
TRADITION?

WHAT'S  
YOUR  
PROB-  
LEM?

HMMPH

YOU  
SHOULD  
GIVE UP  
ON HIM.

HE-  
HEHE!  
I GET  
IT.

SINCE  
NAOTO  
WAS MY  
FIRST  
LOVE,

HE'S A  
PROBLEM  
FOR YOU.

BUT  
DON'T  
THINK  
FOR A  
SECOND  
...

...THAT  
I'M  
GOING  
TO LET  
YOU GET  
BETWEEN  
US!

After all,

IF I  
HAVE A  
BOYFRIEND,  
YOU'RE  
OUT OF  
A JOB!

HUHP

I'M GOING TO  
GO OUT WITH  
NAOTO AND  
FINALLY HAVE  
THE FUN I  
DESERVE!

HELLO,  
THERE!

Where  
should we  
go next??

高校文化祭  
HIGH SCHOOL CULTURE FAIR



SOUNDS  
FUN!  
LET'S  
CHECK  
IT OUT!

A  
NINJA  
CAFÉ,  
HUH?

TRY YOUR  
SHURIKEN-  
THROWING  
SKILLS AND  
HAVE A  
DRINK!

COME  
TO OUR  
NINJA  
CAFÉ!

I FINALLY  
KNOW  
THE JOY  
OF THE  
CULTURE  
FAIR!

~ GLOW



OH,  
NAOTO!

THE  
CUSTOMERS  
ARE REALLY  
POURING IN!

YOU  
GUYS  
SURE  
HAVE  
BEEN  
WORKING  
HARD.



# **HANASHINO THREE-PANEL THEATER**



He said no...

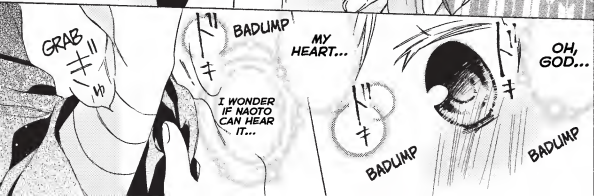
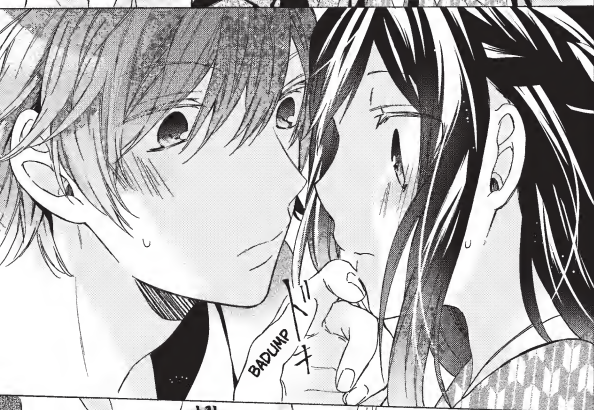
Uncle's so mean...





I CAN BARELY CONTAIN MYSELF.

THIS IS SO FUN.







...YOU  
WERE  
THERE TO  
PROTECT  
ME!

...BUT  
I WAS  
GLAD...

HUH?

UM,  
I'M  
SORRY  
ABOUT  
YESTER-  
DAY...



I HAVE  
TO ASK  
HIM, FOR  
REAL THIS  
TIME.



...MY  
FIRST  
LOVE,  
WEREN'T  
YOU?

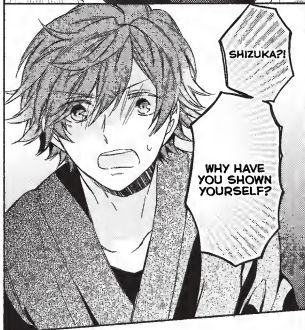
HEY,  
NAOTO,  
YOU  
WERE...

HUH?





IT'S  
THE SAME  
GUY FROM  
YESTERDAY!



SHIZUKA?

WHY HAVE  
YOU SHOWN  
YOURSELF?



GASP !

17



MERELY A  
TRICK...

...MY  
LADY.













WAIT!

YEP.

NICE TO MEET YOU, SHIZUKA INABA-SAN. I HEAR YOU'RE THE STRONGEST NINJA IN THE NORTH.

I COULD TELL THEY WERE A TEAM FROM THE MOMENT I SAW THEM TOGETHER.

Y-YOU KNEW ABOUT THIS?!

YOU SURE ARE NAIVE, BENIO.

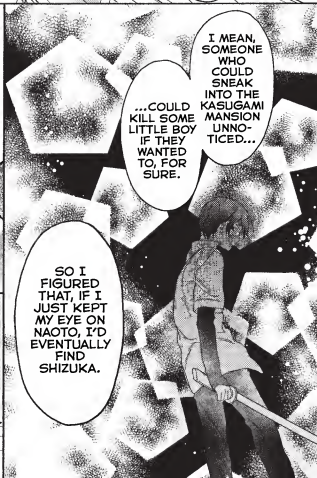


HE MUST HAVE HAD A JOB AT A FLORIST'S.

I GUESS HE WASN'T YOUR FIRST LOVE, AFTER ALL.

EVEN IF I DID, THAT WOULDN'T HAVE STOPPED YOU.

IF YOU KNEW YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME!



I MEAN, SOMEONE WHO COULD SNEAK INTO THE KASUGAMI MANSION UNNOTICED...

...COULD KILL SOME LITTLE BOY IF THEY WANTED TO, FOR SURE.

SO I FIGURED THAT, IF I JUST KEPT MY EYE ON NAOTO, I'D EVENTUALLY FIND SHIZUKA.









TAMAKI!!

YOU  
MUST BE  
QUITE  
CONFIDENT!

SLASH

STAGGER

SLUMP

YOU WILL  
BE DEAD  
IN THREE  
MINUTES.

HACK

PANT  
PANT

THIS  
BLADE IS  
POISONED.







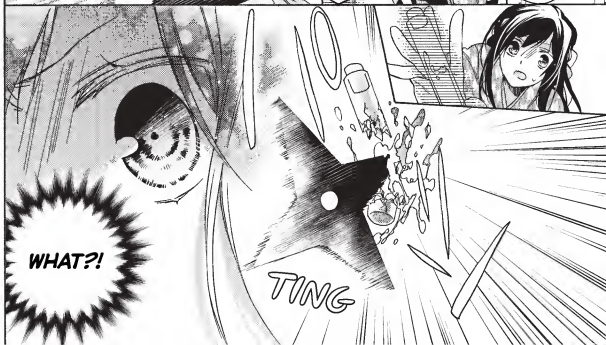
...SO GIVE  
ME THAT  
ANTIDOTE!

I'LL  
GIVE  
YOU MY  
KISS, MY  
FORTUNE,  
OR  
WHATEVER  
ELSE YOU  
WANT...



FWOO  
JUST  
GIVE  
ME THE  
ANTIDOTE!

THE  
KASUGAMI  
PRINCESS  
IS AS BOLD  
AS THEY  
SAY.



WHAT?!

TING









IT'S  
FOR THE  
SAKE OF  
OUR OB-  
JECTIVE.

I...

I DIDN'T  
WANT IT  
TO BE  
LIKE  
THIS!



BESIDES,

HAVING  
DIED FOR HIS  
MASTER...

...THIS  
NINJA  
HAS  
ACCOM-  
PLISHED  
HIS  
OBJECTIVE,  
AS WELL.



OOOOOO!!



...THAT  
I'D  
THROW  
TAMAKI'S  
LIFE  
AWAY  
FOR  
IT!

THERE'S  
NOTHING  
I CARE  
ABOUT SO  
MUCH...

WHAT  
?!

DON'T  
ACT SO  
HIGH AND  
MIGHTY.



THAT'S  
THE  
PROMISE  
I MADE.

I WILL  
HELP YOU  
ACCOMPLISH  
IT AT ANY  
COST.

WE  
HAVE A  
PURPOSE  
WE  
CANNOT  
FORSAKE.

...



DO  
YOU WANT  
ANYTHING  
MORE  
THAN TO  
RESTORE  
THE GLORY  
OF THE  
OSAKA  
FAMILY?

I...

WELL,  
THEN  
...

gulp...

BLINK



SORRY.

TIME'S  
UP.

NAOTO!  
LOOK  
OUT!



**NINPO**  
**HELL'S COUNTER-ATTACK**









WHEN  
THE OSAKA  
FAMILY WENT  
BANKRUPT,  
EVERYONE  
LEFT.



...IS  
THAT I  
WANTED  
TO BE A  
MASTER  
WORTHY  
OF YOUR  
SERVICE.



EVERY-  
ONE'S  
GONE.

WHATEVER,  
I GUESS  
YOU'LL  
LEAVE  
ME, TOO.  
RIGHT,  
SHIZUKA?

NO,  
LITTLE  
BOY.



I'LL  
STAY  
BY YOUR  
SIDE, NO  
MATTER  
WHAT.

YOU  
CAN  
RESTORE  
YOUR  
FAMILY'S  
GLORY  
SOMEDAY.



I WAS  
SO HAPPY.



I WANTED  
TO REPAY YOU,  
WHATEVER IT  
TOOK.

BUT...

THERE'S  
NOTHING  
I CARE  
ABOUT SO  
MUCH THAT  
I'D THROW  
TAMAKI'S  
LIFE AWAY  
FOR IT!



I'VE  
PUSHED  
YOU TOO  
FAR...

NOTHING  
IS WORTH  
ALL THIS  
FIGHTING.

YOU'RE  
ALL I  
NEED,  
SHIZUKA.



EVEN  
IF HE  
IS A  
PITIFUL  
ONE...

SHUT  
UP!

...I HAVE  
ONLY ONE  
MASTER.

WORTHY  
OR NOT...

WHAT  
NONSENSE  
IS THIS?

IT'S  
EMBAR-  
RASSING.



THAT'S  
THE  
SECOND  
ONE  
TODAY.

OW!

OOF!

SMACK

I GUESS  
WE CAN'T  
REALLY BE  
FRIENDS  
ANMORE.

BENIO,  
I'M SO  
SORRY.



I GUESS  
WE'RE  
ABOUT  
EVEN  
NOW.

CONSID-  
ERING  
THOSE  
DELICIOUS  
CRÊPES  
YOU  
BOUGHT  
ME.



I'M  
GLAD  
EVERYTHING  
TURNED  
OUT ALL  
RIGHT.

LOOKS  
LIKE THE  
AFTER-  
PARTY  
HAS  
STARTED.





"NAOTO WAS MY FIRST LOVE!"

God,  
YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE,

YEAH, THAT WAS REALLY TOO BAD, HUH?

Sigh...  
BUT MAYBE I'M JUST NOT CUT OUT FOR LOVE.

I MEAN, THINGS DIDN'T EVEN WORK OUT WITH NAOTO, DESPITE OUR HISTORY.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TELL YOU OTHERWISE.

BUT...

...SOMEDAY, YOU REALLY WILL FIND LOVE...

AND, TILL THEN, I'LL BE HERE TO PROTECT YOU.



...



BENIO?  
WHAT'S  
UP?

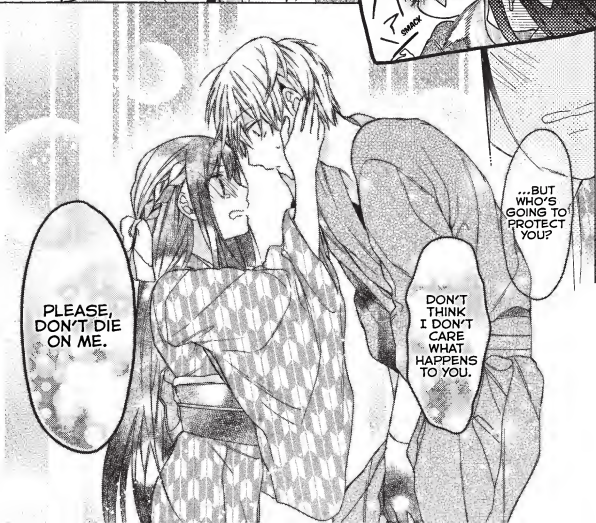
YOU  
SAY  
YOU'LL  
PROTECT  
ME...

HE'S  
SO  
WARM...



YOU  
ASS!

I KNOW  
I REALLY  
LIKE  
HAVING  
THAT KIND  
OF JOB  
SECURITY!



PLEASE,  
DON'T DIE  
ON ME.

DON'T  
THINK  
I DON'T  
CARE  
WHAT  
HAPPENS  
TO YOU.

...BUT  
WHO'S  
GOING TO  
PROTECT  
YOU?



Sob,  
hic...



I'M  
SO  
GLAD  
YOU'RE  
ALIVE!



JEEZ  
...



BACK  
THEN...

...I STILL  
THOUGHT...

...THAT TAMAKI  
WOULD ALWAYS  
BE THERE TO  
PROTECT ME.

YOU'RE  
SUCH A  
WORRY-  
WART,  
PRINCESS.



TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 2



IN THE NEXT VOLUME...

COULD IT BE TAMAKI'S  
EX-GIRLFRIEND?!

ARE  
YOU  
WORRIED  
ABOUT  
WHO  
TAMAKI  
LIKES?

WHY  
IS  
THAT?

THE LADY AND HER NINJA GET A LOT CLOSER!

BUT WHAT WILL BECOME  
OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP?

...PLEASE  
...

...FORGET  
ANY OF  
THIS EVER  
HAPPENED.

JUST...

PREPARE FOR EVEN MORE EXCITEMENT!



## **A Springtime with Ninjas 1**

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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